

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-24 remain pending.

Claims 1-3 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Henderson, et al., US 6,047,227 or Wendt, US 5,995,894 or Fournier, et al., US 5,850,341 or Gudat, US 5,631,658 or Henderson, US 5,493,494. Claims 5, 7-11, and 15-24 are said to contain allowable subject matter.

Without admitting to the propriety of the art rejections, the Applicants have chosen to amend claim 1 to add the subject matter of allowable claim 11 thereto, and to amend claim 11 to be dependent from allowed claim 5. All claims thus contain allowable subject matter and should be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. KAS-243).

Respectfully submitted,

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